TASK GROUP ON HOMES FOR SPECIAL CARE

BY

HONOURABLE EDMUND L. MORRIS
MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FEBRUARY 22, 1983

INTRODUCTION -- HOMES FOR SPECIAL CARE

--- At the present time, we have 172 Homes in Nova Scotia caring for 7861 seniors, disabled and mentally handicapped, including both children and adults.

--- Some of these Homes are operated under private auspices for profit; others are operated on a non-profit basis by local community groups under the Societies Act; others are operated on a non-profit basis by Municipal Corporations; and still others are operated by our Department directly.

--- All Homes providing care and supervision for four or more residents not related to the owner or operator by blood or marriage are subject to the provisions of the Homes for Special Care Act and Regulations which are enforced by the Department.

--- Under the Homes for Special Care Act and Regulations, our Department is responsible for approving Home construction, licensing, enforcing standards of care, classifying residents requiring public support and cost-sharing with Municipalities via an approved per diem rate for the maintenance of residents requiring public support. At the present time, the Province cost-shares 66 2/3% to 100% of Municipal expenditures related to the maintenance of persons in need.

--- The Municipalities, under the Social Assistance Act (Section 23) are responsible for the placement and support of residents requiring assistance with their maintenance costs.

--- The gross forecasted expenditure on Homes in 1982/83 by all levels of government and the residents themselves will be $111,991,000.

HOMES FOR SPECIAL CARE

1982-83

TYPES, BEDS, BUDGETS AND COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	Number of Beds	Forecast Operating Budget	Forecast Municipal Cost	Forecast Provincial Cost	Forecast Federal Cost	Forecast Resident's Cost	Rate for Cost-Sharing
Homes for the Aged	34	3315	49,767,000	7,803,600	14,940,500	666,800	26,356,100	66 2/3%
Nursing Homes	21	1615	23,814,000	4,099,700	7,682,900	516,500	11,514,900	66 2/3%
Residential Care Facilities	70	1071	6,334,000	699,300	786,000	612,700	4,236,000	66 2/3%
Regional Rehabilitation Centres	3	361	12,029,000	- 0 -	9,650,200	1,623,300	755,500	100% (Prov.)
Adult Residential Centres	9	871	10,502,000	2,992,500	5,189,100	796,000	1,524,400	66 2/3%
Group Homes and Developmental Residences	30	250	3,140,000	894,200	1,475,500	312,900	457,400	66 2/3%
Children's Training Centres	4	180	3,260,000	- 0 -	1,540,400	1,719,600	- 0 -	100%
Nova Scotia Youth Training Centre	1	198	3,145,000	- 0 -	1,486,000	1,659,000	- 0 -	100% (Prov.)
TOTAL	172	7861	111,991,000	15,489,300	42,750,600	7,906,800	44,844,300	

HOMES FOR SPECIAL CARE

1983-84

BUDGET AND COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT

Type of Facility	Estimated Operating Cost	Estimated Municipal Cost	Estimated Provincial Cost	Estimated Federal Cost	Estimated Resident's Cost
Homes for the Aged	52,753,000	8,470,800	16,682,900	258,700	27,340,600
Nursing Homes	25,243,000	4,355,900	8,142,900	568,800	12,175,400
Residential Care Facilities	6,714,000	784,200	858,200	710,100	4,361,500
Regional Rehabilitation Centres	12,750,000	- 0 -	8,426,300	1,595,100	2,728,600
Adult Residential Centres	11,132,000	3,172,900	5,472,800	873,000	1,613,300
Group Home & Developmental Residences	3,328,000	1,024,700	1,677,500	371,900	253,900
Children's Training Centres (4)	3,751,400	- 0 -	1,774,000	1,977,400	- 0 -
Nova Scotia Youth Training Centre	3,612,800	- 0 -	1,708,000	1,904,800	- 0 -
TOTAL	119,284,200	17,808,500	44,742,600	8,259,800	48,473,300

WHY THE TASK GROUP

--- Concerns are being expressed from many quarters respecting where we are going vis-a-vis the appropriate care of seniors, the disabled and the mentally handicapped.

--- Central to these concerns are:

- the projected increase in the number of seniors and disabled requiring care over the next 15-20 years. Between 1981-2001 the numbers of seniors in Nova Scotia will increase from 91,505 to 113,482 (or 19.3%);

- the escalating costs of Homes for Special Care and the extent to which alternative community support programs would be preferable and less costly;

- notwithstanding community support programs, how many seniors and/or disabled will require placement in a Home for Special Care and where.

--- On the one hand, the Department is faced daily with demands for more beds, increased staff and programs and to accept a greater portion of the financing of Homes for Special Care. On the other hand, community groups are pushing for expanded home and community support services for seniors, the disabled and the mentally handicapped;

--- The Departments of Health, Housing and Social Services have all responded in varying measure to these increasing and changing needs and the time has now come to pause, examine what is now in place by way of services to seniors, the disabled and the mentally handicapped and to chart a course for the immediate future based on current and projected needs.
<u>This will be the responsibility of the Task Group.</u>

MANDATE

To review all aspects of Nursing Homes, Homes for the Aged, Residential Care Facilities, Regional Rehabilitation Centres, Group Homes and Developmental Residences for the purpose of ---

(1) recommending necessary bed requirements for the next six years including numbers and locations;

(2) identifying problem areas related to legislation, regulations, policies, guidelines and procedures;

(3) propose options for the resolution of these problem areas;

(4) determining the cost implications.

While not limiting the generality of the above, it is desired that the Task Group will address the following areas.

BED REQUIREMENTS

--- the adequacy of present process and guidelines for establishing bed requirements throughout the Province;

--- the number and location of bed requirements for each of the next six years, and the mix as between levels of care;

--- the appropriate mix of private versus publicly-supported beds;

--- the role of the profit/non-profit sectors in responding to identified bed requirements.

STANDARDS OF CARE

--- the adequacy of current staff guidelines - should we maintain our current practice of defining minimum and optimum requirements? do we adequately address the question of staff qualifications? is the system in place for determining salary levels the appropriate system? should there be maximum levels beyond which cost-sharing would decline or end?;

--- the adequacy of our current requirements respecting the design, construction and furnishing of Homes for Special Care, including such areas as -- are homes designed and furnished in a manner which maximizes the safety and comfort of residents while at the same time ensuring the optimal degree of privacy, freedom and involvement? what are the optimal and minimal designs and sizes of homes? are homes designed to facilitate with minimal additional expense, changing requirements from light to heavy care? are homes designed to provide appropriate care for couples? what provision should be made for short-term respite care?;

--- the nature and type of programs and activities required or desirable in such homes to maximize the self-fullfilment and dignity of residents and to encourage their participation in their care to the fullest extent possible;

--- the rights and responsibilities of residents and the extent to which they are promulgated, understood and enforced;

--- the role of volunteerism and community effort in support of residents in Homes for Special Care;

--- ways and means of fostering and encouraging inter-generational relations involving the residents of the homes;

--- the nature and extent to which homes can be supportive of seniors living in the community;

--- the provision of pastoral care in homes.

FINANCING

--- the most appropriate method of financing such Homes given financial realities, including the resident contribution and how it should be determined, the role of the municipal level of government, and the role of the Province;

--- role, composition and operation of the Rate Setting Committee;

--- optional approaches and mechanisms for establishing per diem rates, the advantages and disadvantages of each;

--- the factors to be considered in establishing per diem rates and the extent to which these are adequately and appropriately covered under the present rate-setting guidelines;

--- the advantages and disadvantages of a one-rate versus two-rate system;

--- the advantages and disadvantages of block-funding support to municipalities.

CLASSIFICATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

--- the appropriate role, composition and operation of the Classification Committee, including whether or not the Department should retain a centralized or move to a decentralized operation;

--- the appropriate role, composition and operation of the local Assessment Committees, including whether or not this should remain a Health or become a Social Services responsibility.

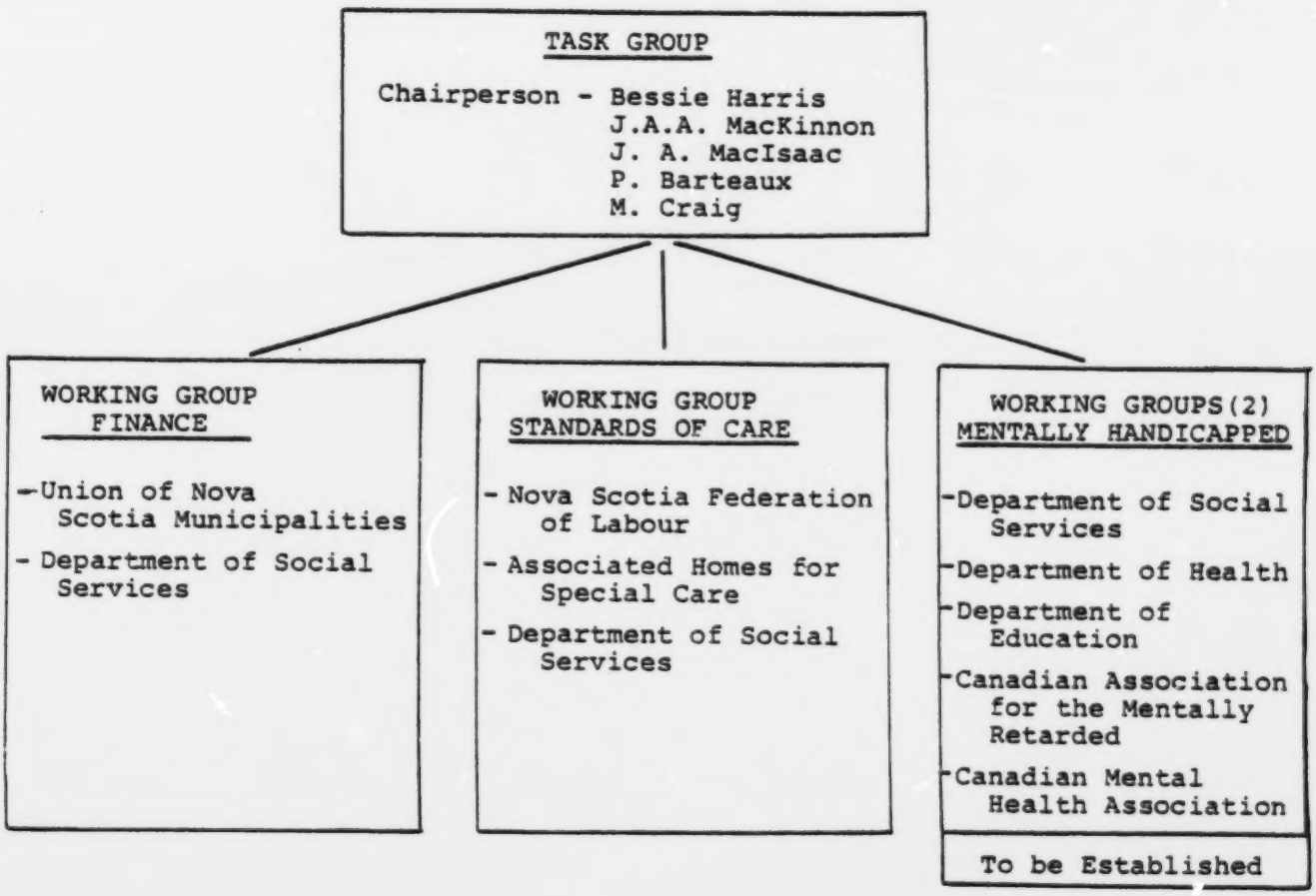
UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

(1) The Municipalities, under Section 23 of the Social Assistance Act, will continue to be responsible for the placement and support of persons in need requiring care in a Home for Special Care;

(2) The Department of Social Services, through the Homes for Special Care Act and Regulations, will continue to require owners and administrators to ensure that residents in Nursing Homes, Homes for the Aged, Residential Care Facilities, Regional Rehabilitation Centres, Adult Residential Centres, Group Homes and Developmental Residences, regardless of their auspices, receive quality care;

(3) That government will maintain but not substantially increase its level of support to Municipalities, who are and will continue to be required by law to maintain persons in need in such Homes.

METHODOLOGY



TIME FRAME

The work of the Task Group will commence in March and its initial report is expected in December.

It will address the areas of bed requirements and locations in the Province over the next six years, standards of care and staffing.